

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14235 271738Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 271711Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1556

S E C R E T BEIRUT 14235

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR USLE

SUBJ: CRISIS: LEBANESE-US RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 14168

1. I CALLED ON BOUTROS DIB, PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S CHEF DU CABINET, THIS AFTERNOON, NOV 27, TO DISCUSS STATE OUR RELATIONS AND ESPECIALLY TO FIND OUT CURRENT STATE OF PRESIDENT'S MIND. DIB REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT PERHAPS HAD CALMED DOWN "UN PETIT PEU" BUT WAS STILL VERY MUCH UPSET. HE DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW HOW THE PRESIDENT WANTED TO RESOLVE THE MATTER AND DID NOT RPT NOT FEEL, FOR THE TIME BEING, THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO ASK. HE FELT BEST PRESCRIPTION WAS TO TRY TO CALM THE SITUATION DOWN INTERNALLY AND THEN AT A LATER DATE APPROACH THE PRESIDENT.

2. HE THOUGHT IDEA OF LETTER SUGGESTED PARA 3 REFTEL WAS GOOD ONE. HE ALSO BELIEVED LETTER SHOULD BE SENT FROM SECRETARY TO FONMIN TAQLA. HE WOULD HOPE THAT LETTER, WITHOUT MENTIONING NAMES, MIGHT INDICATE AREA WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR "MISTAKE IN ORDER THAT PRESIDENT'S SUSPICIONS OF ROLE OF EMBASSY WOULD BE DISABUSED. I TOLD HIM THAT I COULD NOT RPT NOT GUARANTEE LETTER WOULD BE RECEIVED BUT SUGGESTION HAD BEEN MADE. HE DID NOT RPT NOT THINK LETTER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE. IN GENERAL, DIB WAS ENCOURAGED THAT SITUATION WAS CALMING DOWN.

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